

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLEASE REFER TO THE GENERAL FAQS SECTION OF ARPA-E'S WEBSITE ([HTTP://ARPA-E.ENERGY.GOV/?Q=FAQ/GENERAL-QUESTIONS](http://arpa-e.energy.gov/?q=faq/general-questions)) FOR ANSWERS TO MANY GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ARPA-E AND ARPA-E'S FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS SPECIFIC TO THIS FOA ONLY ARE INCLUDED BELOW. PLEASE REVIEW ALL EXISTING GENERAL FAQS AND FOA-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BEFORE SUBMITTING NEW QUESTIONS TO ARPA-E.

### I. Full Application Phase Questions:

#### Q1. WILL ARPA-E CONSIDER PROVIDING MORE THAN TEN AWARDS IF THE AWARDS ARE FOR LESS THAN THE STATED MAXIMUM OF \$400,000 IN THE FOA?

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E reserves this right based on the quality of the proposals. ARPA-E advises to propose an accurate budget based on the scope of your proposal.

#### Q2. I HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING THE DATASET FOR GO COMPETITION CHALLENGE 3. WE HAVE AN IDEA OF USING AI-BASED APPROACHES TO TACKLE SOME OF THE ACOFP CHALLENGES, BUT WE ARE NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE DATASETS RELEASED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COMPETITION CONTAIN SUFFICIENT DATA FOR TRAINING. COULD YOU PLEASE PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE TIME SERIES DATASETS? FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS THE TIME RESOLUTION (5-MIN, 1-HOUR, ETC.) AND WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF THE TIME SERIES DATA (ONE DAY, ONE WEEK, ONE YEAR, ETC.).

**ANSWER:** The Challenge 3 Rules, Scoring, and Datasets and Timeline Documents, all recently posted on the GO Competition website, provide some description of the competition divisions (including temporal resolution) and the projected delivery schedule for the sandbox and event datasets. A small selection of datasets (including scenarios) will be publicly available at the start of the competition. New dataset topologies will be provided in advance of each competitive event, but scenario data will be withheld until after the event is scored.

#### Q3. ... COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT THE PROJECT DURATION FOR THIS PROJECT CHALLENGE 3 IS 1 YEAR?

**ANSWER:** The Challenge 3 Datasets and Timeline Document has recently been posted to the GO website, please check the website for additional information on the GO Competition. Applicants to the GO Competition Support FOA should plan to participate in the full competition and provide additional time for any competition delays, complete their post-competition transitions, submit project closeout reports, and complete any remaining award requirements.

**Q4. WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED START AND END DATES FOR THE SELECTED PROJECTS?**

**ANSWER:** Selections are expected in May 2022. Negotiations will begin after selections and the projects will begin after award. Four competitive events will be conducted approximately three, six, nine, and twelve months into Challenge 3.

**Q5. I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION REGARDING GO CHALLENGE 3: IS THE FUNDING PERIOD FOR ONE YEAR FROM MAY 2022 UNTIL THE FINAL EVENT OF CHALLENGE 3 OR CAN THE FUNDING BE USED TO COVER AN ADDITIONAL YEAR OF RESEARCH AFTER THE FINAL EVENT?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E anticipates that the funding period will be one year.

**Q6. I AM ASSISTING A FACULTY MEMBER WITH A PROPOSAL TO THIS OPPORTUNITY AND WE ARE WONDERING WHAT THE PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE IS PLEASE? WE CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE START DATE OR NUMBER OF MONTHS IN THE FOA.**

**ANSWER:** See questions 4 and 5 above.

**Q7. [REDACTED] PARTICIPATED IN CHALLENGE 2 AND RECEIVED AN AWARD. TECHNICALLY THIS IS A PRIZE RECEIVED BY LBNL TO SUPPORT RESEARCH IN THIS AREA. CAN WE USE THOSE FUNDS AS A COST-SHARE IN OUR ARPA-E CHALLENGE 3 PROPOSAL?**

**ANSWER:** No.

**Q8. I AM INTERESTED IN GO CHALLENGE 3 EVENT. WOULD GPUS BE AVAILABLE FOR THE EVENT? THE WEBPAGE DESCRIPTION SEEMS WRITTEN FOR CHALLENGE 2 AND SAYS ONLY FOR DEMONSTRATION.**

**ANSWER:** No.

**Q9. I HAVE A QUICK QUESTION REGARDING DE-FOA-0002690. IF A UNIVERSITY IN THE US LEADS THE PROPOSAL, WOULD THE MINIMUM REQUIRED COST SHARING BE 5% OR 20%?**

**ANSWER:** See Section B. Cost Sharing of the FOA.

**Q10. I AM A POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE WORKING AT [REDACTED] ON A VISA (BRITISH CITIZEN). I WAS THE PRIMARY DEVELOPER ON A WINNING TEAM IN THE ARPA-E GO COMPETITION, CHALLENGE 2.**

**MY INTERPRETATION OF THE FUNDING RULES IS THAT I CAN APPLY AS A CO-PI ON THIS FUNDING CALL AS THE MONEY WOULD GO TO CU BOULDER, COULD YOU PLEASE CONFIRM THAT THIS IS CORRECT?**

**ANSWER:** See Section III.A Eligible Applicants of the FOA.



**Q11. I HAVE A QUESTION. WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF “SMALL BUSINESS”, THE TERM USED FOR COST SHARE? THE FOA INDICATES SECTION IX FOR THE DEFINITION, BUT IT IS NOT DEFINED IN THE SECTION.**

**ANSWER:** The Small Business Administration (SBA) determines the “definition” of what a small business is. This definition is referenced as “size standards” and can be found in Title 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 121.

[www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/chapter-I/part-121](http://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/chapter-I/part-121)

**Q12. HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU WELL. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. DE-FOA-0002690, SUPPORT GRANTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN ARPA-E GRID OPTIMIZATION (GO) COMPETITION CHALLENGE 3?**

**SOME OF THE DOCUMENTS ABOUT THE COMPETITION WAS JUST PUBLISHED RECENTLY. FOR INSTANCE, SCORING, TIMELINE, AND RULES WERE PUBLISHED ON MARCH 8 ([HTTPS://GOCOMPETITION.ENERGY.GOV/CHALLENGES/CHALLENGE-3/RULES](https://gocompetition.energy.gov/challenges/challenge-3/rules)). WE DO APPRECIATE, IF YOU COULD EXTEND THE DEADLINE, SO WE CAN PREPARE THE FULL PROPOSAL AND ADDRESS ALL THE ASPECTS IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

**RULES | GRID OPTIMIZATION COMPETITION**

**DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL RULES DOCUMENT PDF FOR THE GO COMPETITION CHALLENGE 3 UPDATED MARCH 8, 2022.**

**[GOCOMPETITION.ENERGY.GOV](https://gocompetition.energy.gov)**

**ANSWER:** No.

**Q13. [DOE LAB] HAS TEAMED UP WITH [REDACTED] TO APPLY TO THIS FOA.**

**WE HAVE SEVERAL QUESTIONS BEFORE WE CAN PROCEED:**

- 1. COST SHARE. [DOE LAB] DOESN'T HAVE ANY NON-FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AS COST-SHARE. [REDACTED] WILL ONLY COVER 5% COST SHARE OF THE [REDACTED] PROJECT COSTS (17.5% OF THE TOTAL) AS PER [REDACTED] POLICY. IS THAT ACCEPTABLE? WE DO NOT HAVE MEANS TO PROVIDE 5% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST AS COST SHARE.**
- 2. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE. IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED FORMS WE NEED EXACT START/END DATES OF THE PROJECT.**
- 3. SUBRECIPIENT SF-424A. FOA STATE "SUBRECIPIENT SHOULD NOT SUBMIT A SEPARATE SF-424". IS A SEPARATE SF-424A REQUIRED FROM SUBRECIPIENT?**
- 4. BUSINESS ASSURANCES & DISCLOSURES FORM. IS A SEPARATE FORM REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED BY EACH APPLICANT ON THE TEAM?**

**ANSWER:**

1. ARPA-E will not pre-asses cost share arrangements. However, all cost share requirements under Section III.B of the FOA must be met.
2. Exact dates cannot be provided until negotiations are complete, which will happen after the expected selection notifications go out May 2022.
3. No.
4. The Applicant (i.e. the Lead Prime Recipient or the Lead Lab) is required to provide and submit the information requested in the form template with the Full Application on behalf of the Project Team. Alternatively, the Applicant may submit this form on its own behalf and append separate forms completed by each Project Team member.

**Q14. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF OUR TEAM AND WE ARE IN AN UNIQUE SITUATION REGARDING COST SHARE. THE FOA STIPULATES A 10% COST SHARE FOR TEAMS WHERE A DOE LAB LEADS AND PERFORMS 80% OR MORE OF THE WORK, AND A 0% COST SHARE (DURING THE GRACE PERIOD) FOR TEAMS WHERE A SMALL BUSINESS LEADS AND PERFORMS 80% OR MORE OF THE WORK. HOWEVER, IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT HAPPENS WITH A TEAM COMPOSED OF A DOE LAB AND A SMALL BUSINESS, EACH PERFORMING ABOUT 50% OF THE WORK. DOES SUCH TEAM QUALIFY FOR REDUCED COST SHARE? IF YES, WHAT WOULD BE THE REQUIREMENT?**

**ANSWER:** ARPA-E will not pre-asses cost share arrangements. However, all cost share requirements under Section III.B of the FOA must be met.